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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. ASC-063

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Currie *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 7878
SERIAL NO.: 10/696,994 GROUP NO.: 2823
FILING DATE: October 30, 2003 EXAMINER: Brewster, W.
TITLE: METHODS FOR PRESERVING STRAINED SEMICONDUCTOR
SUBSTRATE LAYERS DURING CMOS PROCESSING

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to a non-final Office action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 9, 2005, Applicants respectfully submit the following Amendment and Response. Applicants believe that no extension-of-time or other fee is due for this Amendment and Response to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension fees or other fees necessary for entry of this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 5.

Applicants' **Remarks** begin on page 6.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 11 of this paper.